

Client Reference: T4SS-03S1307-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

TOSHIYUKI HIROTA

Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN

Application No.: TO BE ASSIGNED

Examiner: UNKNOWN

Filed: April 1, 2004

Confirmation No.: UNKNOWN

For: ELECTRONIC APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

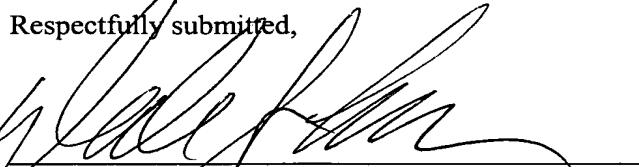
Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Patent Application
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants with the next Office communication to indicate that the references have been considered, per MPEP § 609. The undersigned respectfully notes that copies of U.S. references are not required in applications filed after June 30, 2003.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.

Relevance of the non-English language references are discussed in the present specification and/or in the Background Art Information Sheet and English-language Abstract attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale S. Lazar
Registration Number 28872
Customer Number: 00909

Date: April 1, 2004

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP
Telephone: (703) 905-2000
Facsimile: (703) 905-2500
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102

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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | | Complete if Known | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | | | Application Number | UNKNOWN |
| | | | | Filing Date | 04/01/2004 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | TOSHIYUKI HIROTA |
| | | | | Art Unit | UNKNOWN |
| | | | | Examiner Name | UNKNOWN |
| | | | | Attorney Docket Number | 008312-0309065 |
| (Use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | | |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | 1 | JP 2002-73210 | 03/12/2002 | MASAKI | Abstract | |
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Examiner Signature _____ **Date Considered** _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.4. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Translation of the attached sheet (Japanese text portions only)
Background Art Information

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Patent No./Publication | Inventor(s)/Author(s) | Date etc |
| None | | |
| *Concise Explanation | | |
| *Concise Explanation | | |
| *Concise Explanation | | |
| Prior Applications of Inventors or of Kabushiki Kaisha Toshiba (Assignee) | | |
| Application No. | Toshiba Reference | Country Agent memo |
| Inventor(s) | | |
| Signature & Date | | |

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|--|----------------------|-------|
| Patent engineer's comment on inventor's information or patent engineer's information | | |
| U.S. Pat. No. 6,456,499, issued September 24, 2002. | | |
| Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2002-73210, published March 12, 2002. | | |
| * | | |
| These publications are referred to in the specification. See page 2, lines 6 and 7. | | |
| Checked by | Dated | |
| Toshiba Reference | Japanese Agent's Ref | sheet |